

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:22

ANSWERED ON:16.11.2016

Judicial Reforms

Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal for judicial reforms in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of village courts to be established in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether all the village courts are functioning with the desired number of judges;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the proposals of the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the improvement noticed in the judicial system of the country after the establishment of village courts?

Answer

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.
(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e): Government has set up National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in manpower strength of judiciary, suggesting policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, recommending re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

Subordinate Courts including Gram Nyayalayas are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the High Court concerned. Section 3 of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas. It is for the State Government to appoint a Gram Nyayadhikari for every Gram Nyayalaya in consultation with High Court in terms of the Section 5 of the Act.

As per information available, 291 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified by 10 States, out of these, 175 are operational. Year-wise and State-wise details of Gram Nyayalayas notified during last three years and current year are given below.

Sl. No. Name of State 2013 2014 2015 2016

1 Maharashtra 1 8 4 -

2 Odisha 2 - - -

3 Punjab 2 - - -

4 Haryana 2 - - -

5 Uttar Pradesh - 12 - 92

Majority of States have now set up regular courts at Taluka level. Further, reluctance of police officials and other State functionaries to invoke jurisdiction of Gram Nyayalayas, lukewarm response of the Bar, non-availability of notaries and stamp vendors, problem of concurrent jurisdiction of regular courts are other issues indicated by the States which are coming in the way of operationalization of the Gram Nyayalayas.

The issues relating to implementation of Gram Nyayalayas Scheme in the States were discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts on 7th April, 2013 wherein it was decided that the State Governments and High Courts should be left to decide the question of establishment of Gram Nyayalayas, wherever feasible, taking into account their local problems. The focus is, therefore, on setting up Gram Nyayalayas where regular courts have not been set up.